

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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January 9, 2002

Paper # 3

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch LLP P O Box 747 Falls Church VA 22040-0747

In re Application of:

Attorney Docket No.:

Merkel, et. al.

: DECISION GRANTING

Application No.:

60/250,465

: PETITION

Filed:

December 4, 2000

0091-0189P

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This is a decision on your petition under 37 CFR 1.53(c)(3), received in the Patent and Trademark Office on December 4, 2001, to convert the above identified application to a non-provisional application under 35 U.S.C. 111 (a) and 37 CFR 1.53(c)(3).

The petition is granted.

The application will be processed in the Office of Initial Patent Examination (OIPE) as a non-provisional application under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 CFR 1.53(b), including the assignment of a new non-provisional application number.

The non-provisional application serial number is <u>09/885,285</u>. The filing receipt for the non-provisional application will be mailed in due course.

Janice Tippett, Program Assistant Office of Initial Patent Examination

(703) 308-0910